

3 September 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 26 August - 1 September 1968Activities South of the 19th ParallelArmed Reconnaissance SortiesThis Week (26 Aug - 1 Sep) *

437 sorties per day

57 percent in Route Package I

30 percent in Route Package II

13 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)Last Week (19-25 August)

437 sorties per day

57 percent in Route Package I

33 percent in Route Package II

10 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 Apr - 1 Sep

360 sorties per day

57 percent in Route Package I

27 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III **
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 Jan - 1 Sep

272 sorties per day

60 percent in Route Package I

24 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III **
(below 19° North)Weather ***

Poor weather prevailed over all of North Vietnam throughout the past

* The rate of attack for the period 26 August - 1 September may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in Southeast Asia were not available at the time of operation.

** Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

*** Good weather - 10,000 feet or more ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Fair weather - 5-10 thousand feet ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling, and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

seven days. Another tropical storm ("BESS") is expected to hit the eastern coast of North Vietnam 5 September, and although it is not expected to be as damaging as "ROSE" which struck 13 August, it should cause some additional flooding in the basin areas.

Highways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Trucks*</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (26 Aug-1 Sep)	619	199	74
Last Week (19-25 Aug)	628	247	29
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	703	128	79
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	544	93	66

Remarks:

The character of observed truck activity within the Panhandle this past week was little changed from that detected by pilots last week, but the total sighted remained slightly below the weekly average noted since 1 April. This week the total of trucks reported destroyed and damaged was again considerably above the weekly average (45 percent greater), with the majority of the truck losses occurring in Route Packages 2 and 3, an area where less than half of all attack sorties are flown.

Although truck sightings and losses of trucks this week were similar to last week's totals, there was a slight increase in the incidence of reports of truck convoys and concentrations of sizeable groups of vehicles.

* These are preliminary data, included to indicate trends in activity. Final data on trucks sighted, destroyed and damaged may be considerably greater, as the above compilations are based on incomplete reporting.

Convoys or groups of about 30 trucks were sighted on various nights this past week on Route 15 just below the 19th Parallel, Route 82 south of Vinh, and along Route 101 south of the Mu Gia Pass turnoff. Smaller concentrations were also noted at several points along coastal Route 1A south of Vinh and Ha Tinh.

Attacks against highway targets, especially bridges, ferries and causeways, continued heavy this past week. In addition, many truck parks and storage areas located along the principle north - south logistic routes were attacked.

Photography [] revealed that extensive road repair activity was in progress along most of Route 193 which is located immediately above the central portion of the DMZ. This route is an important connector road joining Routes 102 and 103 which service the extensive trail system along the DMZ border. This repair activity is most likely part of the continuing effort by the North Vietnamese to maintain a serviceable roadnet in the area despite the effects of the heavy bombing effort.

Recent photography of the Panhandle of North Vietnam also continues to show evidence of new and improved logistic areas being built along the major infiltration routes. []

[] shows that extensive improvements are being made to a probable ammunition storage area located on Route 7 several miles west of Tri Le. The most recent photography of this area revealed seven evenly-spaced storage buildings, one similar storage building under construction and two additional foundations in place, whereas, photography []

showed only four storage buildings in the same area. Farther south, a new dispersed POL storage area was noted on Route 152, a principle route used for vehicle proceeding southward toward the DMZ and southern Laos. This new storage area is located near the intersection of Routes 15 and 152 and consists of about twenty revetted trenches along either sides of the road. In addition, a road loop has been constructed nearby and contains additional revetted areas. Other recent photography of Route 152 shows similar storage facilities located along most of its entire length and are probably used in support of the heavy truck traffic often noted in the vicinity.

Roadwatch Teams

	Total Trucks Counted for Period		
	<u>Latest Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>	<u>Weekly Average 1968</u>
Route 15 [redacted] north of Ma Gia Pass)	(23-31 Aug) 53S; 83N	(15-22 Aug) 152S; 59N	168S; 147N *
Route 912	(23-31 Aug) 32S; 45N	(15-22 Aug) 29S; 37N	N.A

Remarks:

The team on Route 912 [redacted]

[redacted] traffic it reports, therefore,

may not represent all the traffic passing over the road by its position.

* Includes information from reports of other teams positioned near the border from January - June 1968.

Railroads

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (26 Aug- 1 Sep)	0	0	0
Last Week (19-25 Aug)	27	0	4
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	15	1	2
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	28	2	5

Remarks:

Attacks against the railroad system this past week were again concentrated against several key bridge chokepoints along the rail line north of Vinh, including the Tam Da river crossing, and against similar targets on the tramway south of Vinh. Pilots reported inflicting additional damage to the bypass bridge at Tam Da. The persistent attacks against Tam Da and other rail chokepoints north of Vinh have prevented through rail service to Vinh since early June.

Waterways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Watercraft</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (26 Aug- 1 Sep)	587	111	95
Last Week (19-25 Aug)	635	88	81
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	439	68	78
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	332	51	64

Remarks:

Pilots reported a slight decrease in watercraft sightings this

were as 587 craft were noted compared to 635 last week. However, watercraft activity this week was still more than 30 percent above the average weekly sightings noted since 1 April.

The waterways in the Quang Khe area continue to show a high level of watercraft activity. Pilots reported watercraft operating north and south of this major transshipment area. Watercraft activity was also heavy on the Nguon Nay upstream from Quang Khe.

The waterways in the Vinh area, particularly the Ngan Sau, which leads southwest away from the city, were also very active. POL carrying sampans were sighted and attacked on this waterway.

Logistic Activity Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

Poor weather and an absence of good photo intelligence during the past week prevented detection of any significant logistic developments between the 19th and 20th Parallels.

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